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THE HALIBURTON COUNTY  
**ECHO**

The Voice Of The Highlands Since 1882

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1995

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75 cents (incl. GST)

# New Warden pledges to begin restructuring

by PETER DOWNS  
Staff Reporter

Haliburton County's new warden vowed Tuesday evening to get the ball rolling towards county-wide restructuring.

And less than 24 hours later he and some of his colleagues on county council began the process that may eventually lead to a stripped down system of local government with fewer municipalities and reduced duplication of services.

"If we are not prepared to chart our future course, someone else will do it for us. There would be little honour in that for any of us," Dysart et al reeve and fourth-time County Warden Murray Fearrey said in his inaugural address. "Restructuring in Haliburton County will begin tomorrow morning at 10 a.m. with the steering committee."

Fearrey, who previously served as warden in 1974, 1981 and 1987, takes over the position for the coming year from outgoing warden Sherborne et al reeve Ross Rabjohn.

In nominating Fearrey for the role, Stanhope deputy-reeve Eleanor Harrison said county council needs a leader with a proven background of experience to guide it through a time when government is being forced re-invent itself.

"I feel we need a warden with experience, a warden with true leadership qualities ... to guide

us," she said.

Fearrey, who was not challenged for the position, said county council "is faced with the most dramatic changes and fiscal responsibility I have ever been part of."

Taxpayers can no longer swallow tax increases and municipalities have seen their transfer payments deeply cut.

Fearrey said he agrees there must be "immediate action" to restructure the way the county operates, but first there must be careful study to determine the impact of any changes.

"In 1973 the amalgamation proposal for the county failed because it was predicated on opinions," he said. "There was an absence of the economic facts that are available today and there were none of the cost cutting measures ... There must be reason to change."

Fearrey said county council must "redefine how we do business" in order to cut costs and continue to provide essential services.

"We will work together to find options on how we can meet our commitments and budgetary obligations," he said "... Everything we do will be put to the litmus test, from planning to roads: Can it be done better internally or would it be cheaper and more efficient done another way?"

Municipalities will have alter-  
See WARDEN page 3



**A CHRISTMAS CANTATA:** Imagine what you'd hear if you mixed a Broadway musical and the heavenly choruses one usually associates with angels. That's exactly what the audience heard at Saturday night's presentation of "The Glory of Christmas", a cantata with carols at St. George's Anglican Church on Saturday night. The choir included (clockwise from back left) John Stouffer, Rev. Christopher Greaves, John Postlethwaite and Glen Carter under the direction of organist Bill Gliddon. If you missed the performance, don't worry — it will be repeated Thursday night at 7:30 p.m..

*"The whole world is listening"*

## Phone privacy a thing of the past

by MARTHA PERKINS  
Editor

When it comes to privacy, it's been one step forward, two steps back.

Many owners of portable and cellular phones don't realize they have less privacy than people who used to be on telephone party lines. In the old days, at least only the other people on the party line could listen to your calls. Today, anyone with a

radio scanner can listen to other people's portable and cellular calls.

"Welcome to the '90s — the whole world is listening," says Staff Sgt. Dennis Edlington with the Minden OPP.

In essence, portable and cellular calls are radio signals which are open to anyone who has the technology to monitor them. A scanner, which costs a couple of hundred dollars, can find these radio waves. Anyone who owns

a scanner can therefore listen to these conversations, unbeknownst to the people talking.

A few months ago, Edlington received a complaint from a Haliburton real estate agent who had been talking about a fairly major real estate transaction over a cellular phone. "The guy walked into a coffee shop and someone was discussing who was buying what from whom and for how much." That person-

See LISTENING page 2

### Echo holiday schedule changes

There will be a few changes in The Echo's publication schedule over the holidays. The next edition will hit mailboxes on Friday, December 22 and local stores the next day. The advertising and editorial deadline is Wednesday, December 20 at 5 p.m..

Over Christmas, The Echo office will be closed from December 23 to December 28, when we all will return for the Creighton Feir Memorial Skatathon at the Dysart arena from 2 to 4 p.m.. The Echo will once again provide the music, hot chocolate and cookies and people can make a donation to the hospital fund.

After that, we'll be in the office getting ready for the Wednesday, January 3 edition. The deadline for that edition is Friday, December 29.



# Friendliness makes visit memorable

This past autumn, hundreds of people toured the Highlands to see the spectacular show of colours. At least one of our visitors was just as impressed with the people of the area. Diane Parish dropped off a copy of a column which appeared in the *Orono Weekly Times*. The correspondent had car trouble just outside of Haliburton and immediately several people offered to help. The tow truck driver, "Murray" even helped them find a place to stay in the midst of a busy weekend. Such friendliness turned what could have been a bad experience into one full of good feelings. She writes: "All in all it really was a good trip, especially thanks to the wonder-

ful warm, friendly people we met in Haliburton. If the few we met are an example of the residents living there, it must certainly be a wonderful place to live in as well as being such a pretty spot."

The Echo staff is having a delicious Christmas thanks to the baking of Joyce Tait, Jean Potter and the Haliburton Highlands Literacy Centre, who delighted us with their gifts. Thanks also to the "Secret Santa" who dropped off the "cinnamon broom" and Jessica Bain for her lovely ornament.

## HERE, THERE & EVERYWHERE

News about people and events in Haliburton County

With all this snow, it might be a good idea to clear your roof, especially if your house or cottage in an older one. The snow is deep and still quite light, but if the weather warms up, it will become compact and heavy, creating the risk that the roof might cave in under the weight of snow.

Dr. Brian Desbiens, president of Sir Sandford College, will be speaking about the future challenges and changing roles of the college at a luncheon at Birch Point Lodge on Thursday. Call

the Haliburton campus at 457-1680 for reservations.

Here's our smile of the week from Paul Charron: A sign in a police station window said "It takes about 3,5000 bolts to put a car together, but only one nut to scatter it all over the road."

For the fourth year in a row, the names Jessica and Michael continue to lead the lists of Ontario's most popular baby names, reports the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations. For boys, Matthew and Ryan have held second place since 1991 and for the second year in a row, Sarah is sec-

ond most popular for girls. The biggest surprise on the list was the appearance of the name Taylor for girls among the top 10 for the first time. The top 20 list for boys is Michael (1,795), Matthew, Ryan, Brandon, Daniel, Tyler, Joshua, Christopher, Nicholas, Andrew, Alexander, Kyle, David, Justin, Jordan, Jacob, James, Joseph, Kevin, Adam, Dylan, Zachary, Eric, Robert and Jesse. The top 20 for girls is Jessica (1,664), Sarah, Emily, Samantha, Nicole, Ashley, Stephanie, Amanda, Taylor, Rebecca, Rachel, Victoria, Brittany, Jennifer, Alexandra, Megan, Melissa, Michelle, Kayla, Danielle, Laura, Lauren, Cassandra, Emma and Alyssa.

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## Listening isn't illegal, but using overheard information is

FROM page 1

had picked up the call on a scanner.

Edlington says owning and using a scanner is not illegal. "However, if you act on the information you receive, it's a criminal offense."

As a result, he has one simple rule - a rule which also extends to police officers, whose calls are often monitored by private individuals: Don't discuss anything private or confidential over a cellular or portable phone. If you want to

ensure privacy, use a phone that's wired directly through the Bell system.

Angela Hislop of Bell Mobility says the entire industry is moving towards digital technology, which is much more difficult for outsiders to access. With digital, "when you speak your voice is turned into a series of zeros and ones so anyone intercepting it won't make much sense of it," she says. The receiver's phone descrambles the information.

Bell Mobility is converting its entire network to digital and now offers digital phones. It also offers "enhanced privacy" services which scrambles speech - for a price. The monthly plan costs \$60 a month.

Hislop adds that at present, people with scanners can only listen to half the conversation and it is extremely difficult to try to target a specific phone for regular eavesdropping. Hearing a conversation is more a matter of chance.

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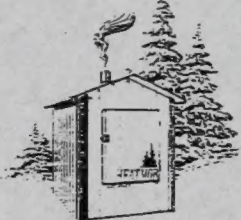
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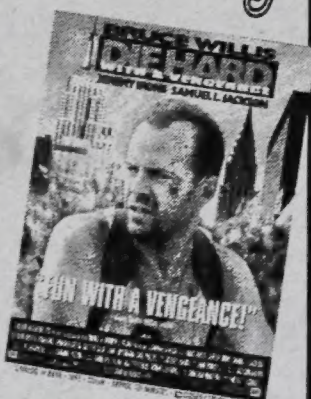
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# Fearrey works quickly to cut meeting costs

by MARTHA PERKINS  
Editor

The county's new warden has acted quickly on his promise to cut costs and streamline government.

One day after he was chosen by his fellow county councillors as warden, Murray Fearrey has cut meeting and mileage costs by one-quarter by re-arranging schedules.

Starting in January, the four main council committees will meet in the morning with the appropriate department head. Those committees are: roads, property and railway corridor; Hyland Crest; social services; and accounts and correspondence.

Then, all of council will convene at 11 a.m. to hear the committee reports, probably given by the department heads. In essence, this gathering will represent a management committee, which will also deal with budget issues.

Then, in the afternoon, regular county council will resume.

At present, many of the com-

mittee meetings are at various nights throughout the month. Councillors get paid for attending each meeting, as well as their mileage.

This way, they only have to make one trip and attend one meeting, and Fearrey estimates costs will be cut by 25 to 30 per cent. "It's a start," he says. "I think we're leading the way in administrative cuts and I believe we'll be more efficient."

Snowdon Reeve George Simmons has been lobbying to cut costs and the size of county council by eliminating the representation of deputy-reeves, but Fearrey thinks this new meeting structure is a more acceptable compromise.

The change in meetings was a suggestion of the new steering committee, which is comprised of past wardens who still sit on council.

There are still other committees which will meet on other days. The library committee includes members of the public, so it will continue to meet at night. The personnel and administration committee is often



**CHANGES AT THE TOP:** At last Tuesday's inaugural ceremony, past warden Sherborne's Ross Rabjohn, right, transfers the warden's robes to Dysart's Murray Fearrey.

involved in union negotiations, so it can't fit in a new schedule.

All reeves and deputies will form a restructuring committee.

Council representatives on outside committees are: Bill Challis, Chamber of Commers; Doug Holman, LTAB Zone 6; Keith Tallman, Children's Aid Society and Health Unit; Eleanor Harrison, Elva Bates,

Family Services of Haliburton County; Gerald Rome, fire services review; Jeanne Anthon, Community Advisory Committee St. Joseph's Hospital; Ross Rabjohn, Acting Health Services Board; Bill Davis, long-term healthcare committee; Jeanne Anthon and Bill Davis, county building renovation and decor committee.

## Warden says team work needed to cope with change

FROM page 1

natives to "massive layoffs" to meet reduced budgets, "but it will require a team effort by management and labour to achieve our goals," Fearrey said.

As well as a commitment to begin restructuring, Fearrey said he wants county council to do what it can to speed up the proposal to move emergency services to Hyland Crest and expand Haliburton Hospital.

He said he would be seeking council's support to delegate outgoing warden Rabjohn to the task of "fast-tracking" the project.

The county needs to know its future financial obligations and cannot afford any more delays, he said.

"The wrong people have been leading Haliburton County on this dangerous path of delay and we must put a stop to it," Fearrey said.

In a brief speech, Rabjohn said he hopes the work he carried out as warden will help council over the coming year as it tackles the difficult job of steamlining.

"Serving with you the past year is an honour that I will cherish the rest of my life," he told his colleagues.

# Stevens resigns as Minden's deputy-reeve

by PETER DOWNS  
Staff Reporter

Lewis Stevens has resigned as the deputy-reeve of Anson, Hindon and Minden council because he has moved out of the county to open up a new

business.

The Minden native, who served eight years on council, submitted his resignation on Tuesday.

Councillor Gerry Rome was nominated at council's Thursday meeting to take over

as deputy-reeve.

Rather than holding a costly election to fill Rome's vacant council seat, the municipality has decided to advertise the opening and then select a replacement from the list of applicants.

In a brief letter to council, Lewis said he and his wife, Jean, have "taken advantage of a job opportunity together" in Oshawa, which moves them closer to their two children.

The couple closed down their most recent business in Minden, Stop 35, last spring. Prior to the restaurant, Lewis and his wife were involved in several other local business ventures.

Reeve Jeanne Anthon said council and the municipality's constituents would miss Lewis. "He was a very popular and very important member of our council."

The municipality will organize a function in the near future to recognize his years of service, she said.

"I wish him well. I hope things go well for him," said Rome.

Lewis said in his letter that he

and his wife would maintain their Minden Lake home and visit frequently.

"We will both miss out beloved Haliburton County area along with the involvement in the area's community activities and concerns," he wrote.

When it came to nominating a replacement for Lewis, both Rome and first-term councillor Daryl Moore put their own names forward.

Councillor Grant Plooard abstained from the nomination process.

Council was then called on to vote on the nominations in alphabetical order.

Moore again voted for himself, Plooard backed Rome, Rome voted for himself and reeve Anthon voted for Rome.

Anthon, who had been under the impression all three councillors planned to vie for the deputy-reeve's seat, said she had given the decision "long and careful consideration at the expense of a night's sleep."

Ultimately, she said, she placed her vote behind Rome because of his previous council experience, his financial exper-

tise as a past bank manager and the popular vote in the last municipal election.

Rome, who has served four years on council, received more votes in the election than anybody on council except Anthon.

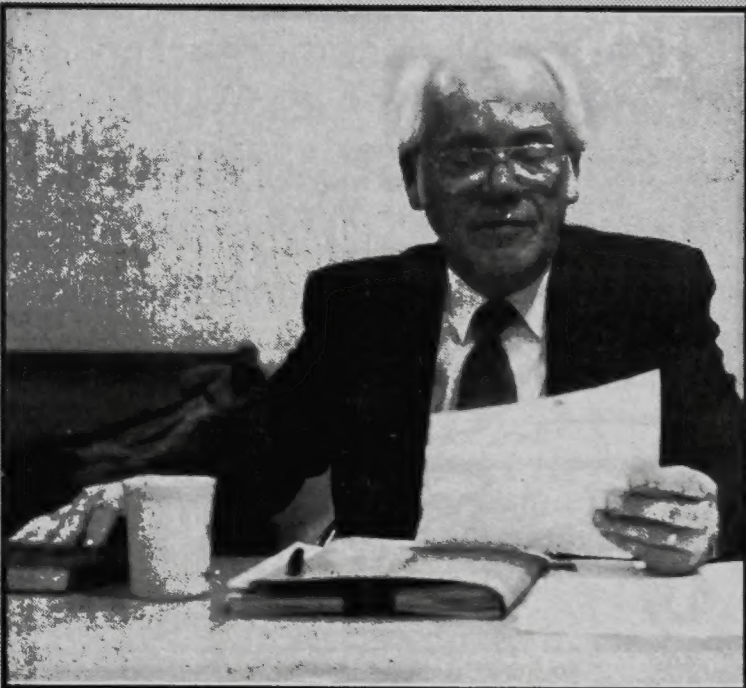
Moore has served just over a year of his first term as councillor.

Rome, who said he has always had a bent towards facilitating transition, said he is looking forward to the challenge of helping take council through the changes that lay ahead with restructuring.

Given the financial hardships facing municipalities, council decided against holding an election, which typically cost about \$20,000, to fill Rome's vacant council seat.

Instead, the municipality plans to advertise for applicants and hopes to select a new councillor at its January 11 meeting.

"This is certainly an extraordinary situation — advertising — but I think it gives the public the opportunity for input," said Anthon.



**MINDEN'S NEW DEPUTY:** Gerald Rome takes his oath of office after being chosen to replace Lewis Stevens, who's moved away.

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# Does anyone recognize Julie on North of 60?

by MARTHA PERKINS  
Editor

The West has lured away another Haliburton resident.

Julie has recently moved to Northern Alberta to join her husband, an RCMP officer who's stationed with the television show, North of 60.

A few weeks ago, viewers of this weekly nighttime drama were introduced to Julie, who much against her husband's wishes, has moved to the remote village which provides the fictional fodder for the show. Twice that evening, reference was made to the fact that this woman grew up in Haliburton.

How did Haliburton become part of a television program?

Well... after a bit of investigative reporting that took it to the foothills of Alberta, The Echo has discovered the producer of "North of 60" had a cottage on Lake Kashagawigamog in 1989. As a tribute to the beauty of the area, and the special memories it holds for him, when Peter Lauterman was writing the script which introduced the Mountie's wife, he said she was from Haliburton.

"When I was a kid, we had a family cottage in Gatineau," Lauterman explains in a telephone interview. By 1989, he was well established in his television career and wanted to be able to re-capture those days of youth but based in Toronto, he didn't want to have to travel all the way to Gatineau. "Haliburton was the closest

place to Toronto that looked like the cottage of my youth."

The first thing Lauterman did as a new cottage owner was practise saying the name of his lake. "I had it down perfect: Sometimes I was so good I added a few syllables," he says. (However, Lauterman has become a bit rusty of late, tripping over quite a few of the lake's existing syllables. "Kawagasha.... Kawashaga....")

The summer of 1989 wasn't as idyllic as those by-gone summers because the cottage became a place of refuge and respite for a friend of his who was dying. Much time was spent in the Highlands that summer just having their spirits restored by the area's natural peacefulness.

"It was just a beautiful summer."

That autumn, the friend died and the cottage was sold.

"It's still a favourite landscape of mine," says Lauterman, who's now based in Bragg Creek, just outside of Calgary in the Alberta foothills.

He says one of the joys of working on a Canadian production is that as producer and occasional script writer, he gets to include some purely Canadian references.

"I'm from Ontario and I'm always looking for the chance to mention the places I love. If Walt Disney eats the whole world (of television entertainment), what you give up is being able to write about your identity."



**LET'S TELL A STORY:** Grade 1 students from Victoria Street School and Ann Varty's high school drama students shared their creativity by writing and illustrating books together. Here, Tyler Watson draws a picture of a carolling snowman while Nathan Pond watches.

## School enrolment rises slightly

The number of students going to county schools this year is up just slightly compared to last year.

As of Sept. 30, there were 2,472 full- and part-time children registered at the board's eight schools.

By combining the number of part-time students to reach an equivalent number of full-time students, the board's figures show there are 2,362.5 students enrolled in the system.

That represents an increase of 30.5 students, or about 1.3 per cent, compared to last year when there was the equivalent of 2,331.5 students registered by Sept. 30.

Enrolment at Haliburton Highlands

Secondary School has gone up by the equivalent of 20 full-time students to 718, while the number of children at the board's seven elementary schools has gone up by five students to 1,644.5

Archie Stouffer Elementary School in Minden saw its enrolment drop by the equivalent of 40.5 students to 628, while J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School in Haliburton had an increase of 34 students to a total

of 536 (including 9 special education students enrolled at Chimo). Wilberforce Public School also saw an increase by the equivalent of 23 full-time students to 102.5.

Enrolment figures for the board's other elementary schools are as follows: Cardiff Public School, 107.5; Dorset Public School, 49; Gooderham Public School, 54; and Victoria Street, 167.5.

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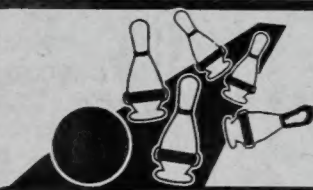


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# Hospital needs to cut budget

*St. Joseph's tells Haliburton to trim eight per cent to curb deficit*

by MARTHA PERKINS  
Editor

The Haliburton Hospital has been told to reduce its budget by 8% because of a growing deficit.

"It will be extremely difficult (to make the cuts)," executive director Foster Loucks told the Acting Health Services Board on Wednesday night. "There's not a lot of room to maneuver."

Loucks has met with the hospital's advisory board to talk about such things as voluntary wage roll backs and closing the hospital's acute care beds for a few weeks. Neither option is very feasible, he said.

One ray of hope is the province's promise to start paying rural doctors \$70 an hour to work on call. At present, the hospital itself has been guaranteeing that wage, "topping up" the difference between what the doctor on call bills OHIP and the \$70 fee.

Details of the specific impact on the hospital's budget have yet to be released by the province.

The directive to cut the budget came from the parent hospital, St.

Joseph's in Peterborough. The combined deficit for St. Joseph's, Minden and Haliburton has topped \$500,000 and under provincial legislation, hospitals are not allowed to have deficits.

St. Joseph's portion of the deficit was \$205,000 as of October 31. Last week it announced 14 initiatives to cut costs at the Peterborough facility, including reducing cafeteria services, temporarily closing up to 10 beds on a nursing floor, reducing part-time hours in various areas and increasing activity in specific revenue generating services, for example diagnostic imaging or x-ray services. Estimated savings will be \$318,500, which is expected to cover any further unexpected cost overruns for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Commenting on the province's hospital budget cuts, Loucks said it is unlikely the constraints will be equally applied. "The good news is that the Ministry appears to be giving priority to rural health and hospitals.

Consequently, our constraints may be somewhat alleviated; on the other hand, medium-sized communities may not be spared

so our continued tie to St. Joseph's may mean that our constraints are the same as theirs. None of this is known at the pre-

sent time, but we will proceed with our operating plan (for the next fiscal year) assuming a constraint of 5%."



**GLORIOUS VOICES:** Bill Gliddon leads a combined chorus of the Haliburton Anglican Parish at Saturday night's cantata, "The Glory of Christmas." The performance will be repeated at St. George's on Thursday night at 7:30 p.m.

## Xmas spirit grabs students

by DEBORAH NASH  
HHSS Co-op Student

The students of HHSS will be enjoying some Christmas cheer this week.

The S.A.C. (Students' Activity Council) has planned a week of fun-filled activities. Starting it off was an Oldies dance on Friday, Dec. 15. On the Monday of the 18th, it is Toque Day, so students can show off their favourite winter hat. There will be a snowman contest on Tuesday, Christmas Olympics on Wednesday, a carol singing contest on Thursday. Friday, there will be a Christmas assembly which involves students singing for the audience and other fun activities. Also on Friday, candy grams (candy canes attached to a message) will be handed out.

Throughout the week, the S.A.C. is running a food drive and asking students to bring in non-perishable food items for the 4C's.

There is no doubt, that students at HHSS will be in the Christmas spirit for the holidays.



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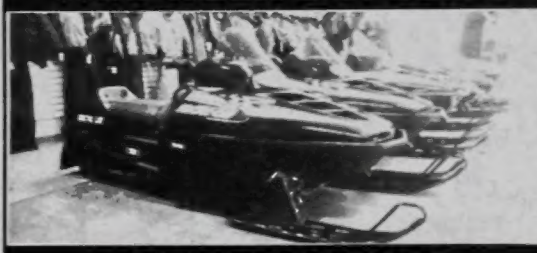


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# Volunteer catches thief in the act

by PETER DOWNS  
Staff Reporter

Minden OPP are crediting an alert community policing volunteer for his help in the arrest of a carjacking suspect who was nabbed outside Haliburton early Wednesday morning.

Not only did the volunteer, who asked for his name not to be published, spot the suspicious 18-year-old, but also he forced him to pull over the stolen vehicle on Kashaga Dr., where he was arrested by police.

"It looks like he has done it again for us," Minden OPP Constable Ron Buchanan said of the volunteer, who has received many police commendations for his assistance.

Just after 12 a.m. on Dec. 13, the community policing volunteer noticed a suspicious young man with a gas can in his hand outside Emmerson Lumber in Haliburton village.

He took down the licence plate number of the vehicle the man was driving and called Peterborough OPP's communications centre on his car phone.

Police determined the car had been reported stolen in a carjacking — where the driver is forced out of the car by the thief — in Toronto the day before.

By the time Minden OPP Constable Brian Ladurantaye and Sergeant Art Goard were able to respond to the call, the man in the stolen vehicle had driven off.

The community policing volunteer spotted him again driving west on Hwy. 121 near the former Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall and was able to call in his location to police.

Const. Ladurantaye and Sgt. Goard began following the suspect's vehicle along Hwy. 121 and then onto Kashaga Dr.

The volunteer helped box in the stolen vehicle by positioning his car in front of it, while the police followed.

As they approached the end of Kashaga Dr. at Hwy. 121, the volunteer slowed his vehicle to a stop and didn't allow the suspect in the stolen car to get around him.

Police arrested the Scarborough man and charged him with robbery and possession of stolen property.

He and the stolen vehicle were held at the Minden OPP detachment until Metro Toronto Police picked them up Wednesday morning.

Const. Buchanan said the OPP had no details regarding the Toronto carjacking incident.



**IN THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS:** The food bank at the 4Cs in Haliburton got a much appreciated boost when the Haliburton Legion donated \$2,000. Taking part in the Legion presentation were Bruce James, Bob Thompson and Murray Tripp of the 4Cs and Legion President Dave Stirrett.



**IT ALL ADDS UP:** Staff at the Montreal Bank of Montreal have been collecting Canadian Tire money. They recently cashed it in and bought \$111 worth of gifts to donate to the 4Cs. Staff and customers also donated hand-knit items for the woolly tree. Bruce James accepted the donations on behalf of the 4Cs.

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# Welfare numbers down compared to last November

by MARTHA PERKINS  
Editor

The following are brief reports of items discussed at Wednesday's county council meeting, the first with Murray Fearrey in the warden's chair. As he said at the close of the meeting, "this is your last easy day." In the new year, council will begin on its restructuring plans and the upcoming budget which includes a 25% cut in funding from the province.

Compared to last year, fewer people are requiring social assistance. This past November, there were 512 cases representing 1,150 people dependent on General Welfare Allowance. That's down by 89 cases or 135 people compared to the previous November.

The committee is recommending the department continues to hire an eligibility review officer.

## Roads

As long as it doesn't snow every day before New Year's, the county's roads budget should come in on schedule. Crews have been busy plowing the record amounts of snow which have fallen in the past weeks. The report said 91% of the department's budget has been spent. (The year end is December 31.)

## Chamber of Commerce

The county has guaranteed an annual \$51,000 grant to the Chamber of Commerce for three years. Warden Fearrey would like the county to decide where that money should be allocated. "We don't want to get into the day to day operation of the Chamber - they have an elected board," Fearrey said. Perhaps the county's portion should be spent on marketing the county. The Chamber is also being invited to make suggestions.

Meanwhile, in his Chamber manager's report, Brian Dean notes that a study of Central Ontario shows that "the Haliburton Highlands, next to Muskoka,

## COUNTY COUNCIL BRIEFS

is the most desired area to visit for a longer stay." There will be continued efforts to market Central Ontario as a destination, not just a drive-through area.

The Destination Guide is on production target and should be in the Chamber office by late January. There are six new Chamber members and Dean now sits on the Community Economic Development Committee of the Haliburton County Development Corporation.

Dean recently met with the executive director of Muskoka Tourism to discuss potential joint marketing ventures for bus tours, snowmobiling, U.S. seniors market, fall foliage, educational seminars, Algonquin Park and the Rama Casino. Dean also plans to attend BIA meetings in Haliburton and Minden.

## Library

At a time when library usage is increasing, the department's provincial funding is being cut by 20% in 1996 and a further 20% in 1997.

The county library system had a 12.6% increase in usage according to a recent survey. There was also a 21% increase in telephone requests. More than 60% of Highlanders are members of at least one of the county's libraries.

It's not yet known how the county library will react to the funding cuts. User fees are still not permitted by law.

## Children's Aid Society

CAS case workers presently spend 80% of their time filling out paperwork and 20% of their time actually dealing with children and their families. To help cut back on this paperwork, council supported a resolution calling on the province to change the bureaucratic process.

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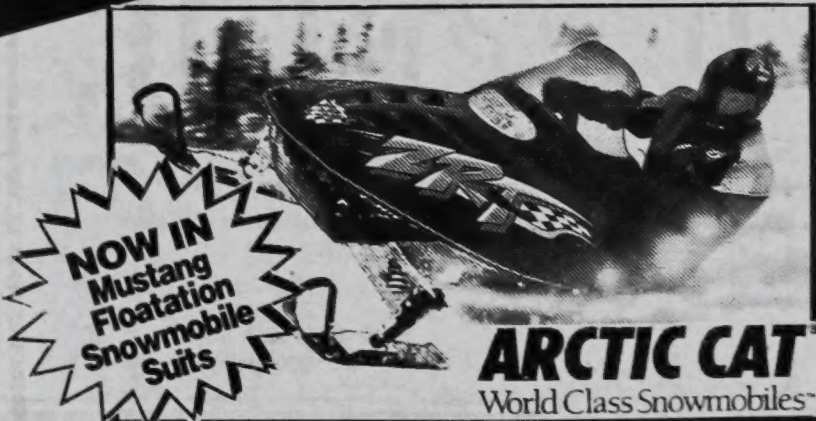
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# AHSB reads the fine print

## \$3.5-million 'mortgage' could speed up healthcare expansion

by MARTHA PERKINS  
Editor

The Acting Health Services Board had the opportunity to read some of the "fine print" of a proposed financial agreement which would basically allow it to "mortgage" its remaining \$3.5-million share of the capital costs for healthcare expansion.

David Ford of Penford Corporation outlined his company's proposal at Wednesday's meeting of the Acting Health Services Board.

The main advantage for the

board if it accepts is a highly competitive interest rate on its one-third share of the \$10.6-million cost of adding 30 long-term care beds at Haliburton Hospital and building a new emergency facility at an upgraded Hyland Crest in Minden. By having the money up front, construction could start fairly soon and once the public saw the projects going ahead, they will more enthusiastically support the subsequent fundraising drive. Otherwise, construction cannot start until the province is reassured the county has raised its portion, and that

could take years.

Ford's company takes advantage of new provincial laws which allow private financiers to become involved in public buildings. Up until now, Penford has primarily been involved with sewage treatment plants — such as Haliburton village's — and hospital equipment. As Ford noted, this would be their first hospital partnership because there haven't been many new hospitals built in the past few years.

Working with major financing institutions, as well as private individuals, Penford raises the

capital for the project. It then "buys" the institution to allow it to take advantage of tax laws concerning depreciation. That's what allows it to offer the lower interest rate.

By law, Penford must pass on these savings to its public partners, who do not have the ability to earn money through depreciation.

In this case, the board would still own the land underneath the building so it can add onto the property if it wishes. "We ask for the right of first refusal to fund upgrading but if you can fund it cheaper than we can, we say go ahead," Ford said.

The board has complete control over the building and operating of the facilities since Penford wants nothing to do with the institutions themselves. All it wants is the monthly mortgage payments.

Then after the 20-year "mortgage" expires, the board would buy back the buildings for \$1.

"To all intents and purposes, we own the buildings," said finance committee chairman Hugh Nichol.

Sherborne et al reeve Ross Rabjohn was sitting at the board table for the first time, representing the county. Because the board has no history as far as the banks are concerned, if it goes ahead with the proposal, it will ask county council to guarantee the loan, which does not cost any money (as long as the board continues to pay the monthly mortgage payment to Penford.)

Rabjohn asked whether it was fair to give Penford the contract

without seeking other quotes. Ford said that he could provide letters from other project partners saying they could not find anyone to match his company's interest rate. Nichol said council could ask the banks to quote on debenturing the \$3.5-million, but doubted the rate would be as low as Penford's because of the company's ability to take advantage of tax laws. By accepting Penford's proposal, the board would save about \$40,000 in interest payments and "a lot of bake sales are taken care of." (Nichol noted the company does not break any tax rules and if those rules change, existing agreements must be honoured.)

On the advice of its lawyer, who has not yet had the opportunity to study the proposal, the board will wait until January before making a final decision, but members favoured the possibilities that a deal with Penford would open up.

However, as Barb Dawson said, a major worry is that the province will make good on its part of the bargain by providing its \$6.5-million share. She was fundraising chairperson of the 18-bed chronic care unit which the province put a halt to just as construction was about to begin. "This county has been stung," she said, and like the rest of the board, she wants assurance from the Ministry of Health the money will still be forthcoming.

Board representatives will meet with Ministry officials in early January.



**MAKING CHRISTMAS BRIGHTER:** Margaret Robinson, Rose Barry and Betty Smith wrap presents that have been donated to the 4Cs Food Bank by many community groups, churches, businesses and individuals. The gifts will be included in Christmas food hampers going out to families in need.

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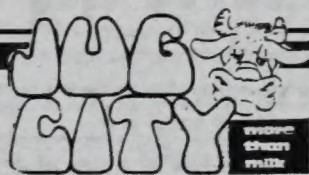
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# Board to decide role of Family Services

by MARTHA PERKINS  
Editor

Should the new Family Services of Haliburton County be a local "kids are us", or should it merely broker services for children from outside agencies?

The board will have to make that decision tonight.

When the agency was first formed, the thought was to amalgamate all the services for children and families in the county, primarily the Children's Aid Society, Kinark Child and Family Services, Parent Support Services and programs offered through the Social Action Committee.

Parent agencies would agree to divest control to a local service, which would be able to gear programs to local needs and be directly accountable to the communities it serves.

The target date for amalgamation is May 31, 1996. "There's a lot of pressures to extend the date but it's important to stay on track because our funding isn't going to last forever," said board vice-president Lon Duncombe, who made a presentation to county council last Wednesday along with project manager Francis Adams.

When the board makes its decision about its role tonight, the primary concern will be finances. The parent agencies have agreed to divest provincial funding for specific programs, but not administration costs. As well, the parent agencies are facing funding cuts, reducing the amount of money they have to hand over. Perhaps this means voluntary programs — programs they are not legislated to provide — will no longer be affordable.

So should the new board try to provide those services, or just be the body which hires other agencies to do the job? Duncombe sees the solution as being a mixture of the two. The underlying goal will be to provide the programming model that is the most cost effective, accessible and responsible to children, he said. "We have a unique opportunity to provide a social services organization the economic climate requires."

Stanhope Deputy-reeve Eleanor Harrison, who has been one of council's representatives on the board since it formed, says she cannot see the province spending tens of thousands of dollars on formulating the new board, only to have it act as broker and becoming another level of bureaucracy.

Meanwhile, no matter which model is chosen, county council will be expected to pick up some of the costs. For CAS services, the province pays 80% of costs and municipal governments pick up 20%. Last year's amount was \$90,000 for Haliburton County, although there was an extra levy of \$15,000 as needs increased. (As an aside, statistics show the county's number of children in care is directly proportional to its population. Almost 7% of the children in care of the Kawartha, Haliburton, Pine Ridge CAS are from the county, which has 7% of the population for the service area.)

Like the CAS, the new agency would have to operate within approved budgets.

When Francis Adams was asked if the county's portion would increase under the new structure, she said "not likely." The county would still be paying for the portion related to child welfare.

The new service is expected to cost \$1.2-million a year. The breakdown is as follows: \$130,000 administration; \$60,000 infant development; \$550,000 child and family intervention; \$450,000 child welfare; and \$65,000 community support (case co-ordination).



AND I'D ALSO LIKE ... Nadia Shivji places an early order from her Christmas wish list with last Monday's special visitor at the C.H.A.C.E. Christmas Party at St. Georges Anglican Church.

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## Editorial

# Use it... or lose it

When the province announced it would fund two-thirds of the cost of improving local healthcare facilities, it had four stipulations: the Minden emergency department would be moved to the Hyland Crest site; Hyland Crest would receive a major upgrade; long-term care beds would be built in Haliburton; and all acute care beds would be consolidated at one site. It then appointed the Acting Health Services Board to put the plan into action.

Two years later, someone finally had enough nerve to publicly say what has been an underlying assumption: this new board would take over operations of Hyland Crest. It makes economic sense and it's practical because who needs two administrations for one site?

However, it seems some county councillors haven't made the same assumption. There's some sort of feeling that the county would be giving up something that it's entitled to, something that it owns – philosophically as well as practically. Opposition to the "loss" of the senior citizens home will probably be mounted by a few people, slowing down the transfer.

Here are a few of the arguments in favour of the transfer:

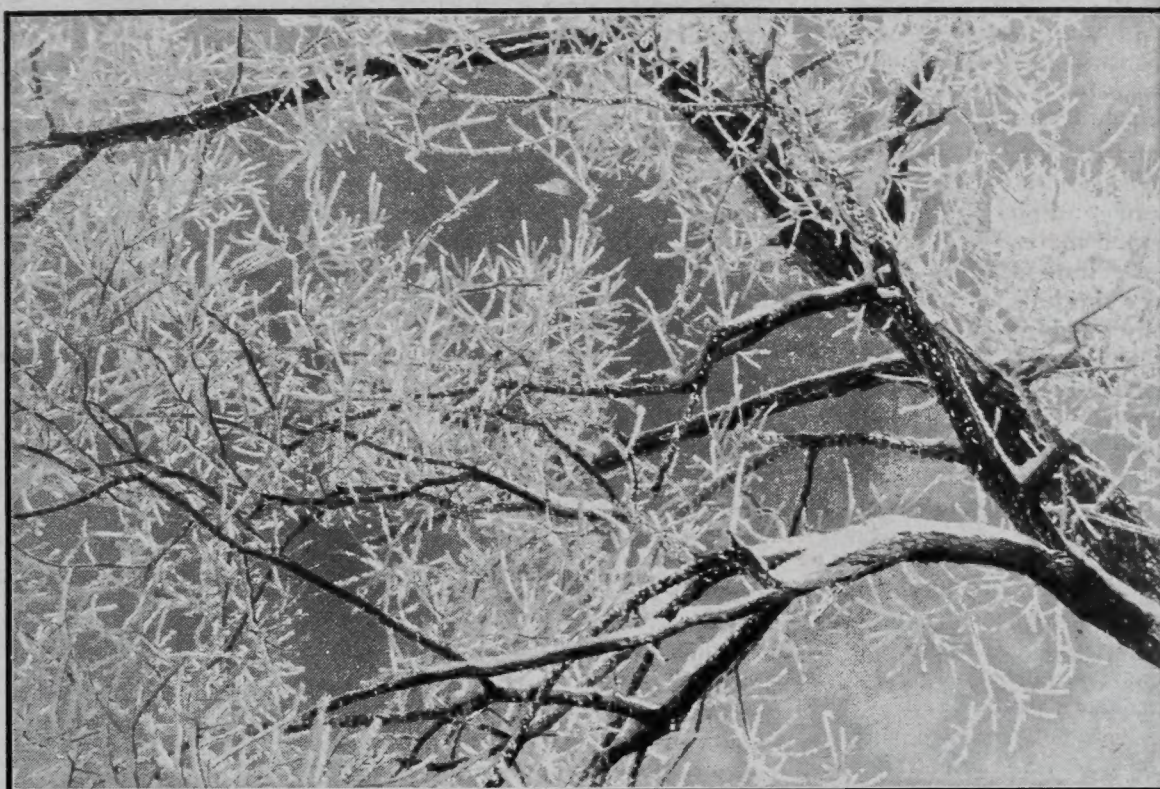
- the province wants it to happen and the province pays 80% of the operating costs at Hyland Crest.
- the administrator of the two local hospitals, Foster Loucks, has an extensive background in healthcare. He ran the large psychiatric hospital in Thunder Bay before moving here and is more than qualified to run the two local institutions.
- Hyland Crest has long been a political football and politics has no place in running a home whose main concern should be the wellbeing of the residents.
- Hyland Crest is no prize. For the past few years it has been "red circled". That is, the province has agreed to top up the difference between the provincial average cost per resident and Hyland Crest's actual costs, which are much higher. The board's concern is that it will be a major liability.

This isn't to say there aren't a lot of details to be worked out. At present, county taxpayers support Hyland Crest to the tune of \$500,000 a year. The board, which must stick to present operating cost funding, will want assurances that money will still be forthcoming. On its part, county council as the money collector will want assurances that costs are controlled and not placed on the backs of property owners. Probably, Hyland Crest will face the same restrictions as hospitals and not be allowed to spend more than their approved budgets and council will have some sort of role in budget preparations.

What about representation? Right now, the board is comprised of appointed members. Once it becomes incorporated next year, it will have to hold annual elections. Board members will therefore be accountable to the people, not just the Ministry officials who pull the purse strings at Queens Park.

There might also be opposition to the move from members of the Minden community who don't want to see the hospital moved from its present site at the corner of Bobcaygeon Road and Hwy. 35. That is a wonderful location but especially in the absence of local doctors who can work on call, it's totally impractical. In the months when reduced service will be offered, it's essential that patients be allowed to stay overnight for observation and/or stabilization. It's not a good for patients to be transferred to another hospital when Minden's emergency department shuts down for a shift. Only if the department is attached to Hyland Crest can the board take advantage of existing infrastructure and round-the-clock staffing. Since money is not exactly flowing out of governments any more, every cost saving is a vital one. As well, many of the elderly residents at Hyland Crest, who often have trouble sleeping through the night, would probably enjoy watching all the hustle and bustle from their bedroom windows.

This entire project has to move ahead as soon as possible. If it doesn't, there's a very real chance that money set aside for much-needed improvements to healthcare in Haliburton County will be used to pay down that infamous deficit instead. We can either be an easy target or a trail blazer. **M.P.**



Winter's mantle

by Len Pizzey

## Letters to the Editor

# Stanhope stops barking dogs

## To the Editor:

A Stanhope man pleaded guilty to his barking dogs disturbing the peace December 5, 1995 in court and was fined \$100 for the first offence.

Much credit goes to two Stanhope councillors, Murray Daniels and Jim Hicks, whom after months of prodding the administration-end of Stanhope's staff to lay charges against a ratepayer, whose two chained-up barking dogs have made residing near them a living hell, their efforts have finally come to fruition.

The by-law is proved effective; the ratepayer has pleaded guilty and gotten rid of one of the offending dogs and reduced his noise pollution by 80% by exercising responsible control. The township's letter to me says they are willing to control the problem, so give their office a call at 489-2379.

The man stated in court that he was being picked on as many other neighbours' dogs were barking. He's right about other dogs barking in a continuous and unnecessary manner and now that he is again a law-abiding ratepayer, he can exercise

his right to call the township and have the offenders charged, and the bliss before he moved here may return.

There is no animosity toward this family, only a desire that they respect other people's right to have a peaceful existence.

And to those who have thumbed their noses at the township's by-law in the past and wish to continue, be prepared to pay because "The by-law is effective!"

**Yours in a less noisy future,  
Bill and Shirley Hamilton,  
Stanhope**

# LCBO privatization is not the answer

## To the Editor:

Re: Jim Batterbee saying yes to the privatization of the LCBO, Tuesday, November 21.

Prices went up when Alberta privatized! Currently at the Westmount Liquor Store in Edmonton you would pay \$21.95 for a 750 ml. bottle of Canadian Club or \$20.95 for a bottle of Smirnoff Vodka. The same items here in Ontario (anywhere in Ontario) would cost only \$19.95 and the LCBO price includes the 8% sales tax.

Under privatization Alberta went from amongst the lowest priced to amongst the highest! Prices also vary from store to store and from city to city, they even vary among the new "chains" such as the Liquor Depot. Some convenience for the consumer!

As for smuggling, contraband liquor does not have an outlet at the retail level in Ontario because liquor is under provincial control. Take away that control and contraband liquor

will have the potential of being sold in the new "private" liquor stores.

You have probably the best liquor retail system in the world today - it may not be perfect, it may require fine tuning but it doesn't warrant dismantling.

Alcohol is not a normal product and requires control and regulation. This is provided by the LCBO. Just look at cigarettes in corner stores then add in alcohol

- we all would lose!

The LCBO is one government agency that is not a money loser, in fact it generates well over \$1.4 billion annually to provincial coffers. This helps to offset your taxes and mine. I say keep it!

**Ray Gorse, former employee  
Alberta Liquor Control Board,  
Bloomfield, Ontario**

# A tribute to the post office staff

## To the Editor:

Recently on my daily visit to our Haliburton Post Office, I was greeted with doughnuts and cookies supplied by the staff. Now, really, we as residents of Haliburton should be treating our fine ladies. We may complain about Canada Post in general but there are no complaints with our Haliburton staff. They

are not only efficient but are always cheerful, cooperative and compatible, pleasant, patient and professional. Therefore, I say, THREE CHEERS and hats off to the best Post Office staff anywhere. Thank you Bernice, Edith, Joanne, Karen, Leanne and Marie.

**A happy Haliburton resident,  
Grace M. Schakelaar**

The Echo welcomes Letters to the Editor. They must be signed, and may be edited for length. Mail to Box 360, Haliburton, K0M 1S0



# Zairean Christmas

YOU KNOW I am not a racist. I think the situation in South Africa is way out of line, but I haven't figured out why Africans are so attracted to religious ritual, they're quite unsophisticated that way. Studies have proven they just go to church for the pageantry and the music."

Rick, my anthropologist friend and a confirmed atheist, sat on the edge of his chair and sipped tea as we looked over the balcony down to the blue waters

of Lake Kivu, now fading to black in the tropical sunset. Rick's marriage to an American historian had recently ended and he was going through a period of personal re-evaluation. Without children or family, he was planning on spending most of the approaching Christmas season surrounded by the comforts of home at the local American army liaison base.

I refrained from repeating a comment my Zairean friend Kinsumba had made a few days previously. "Wazungu (whites) do not always control themselves. I have seen them become very angry and like the volcano - everything comes spewing out. In this way they are similar to children".

Kinsumba, like most of his countrymen, never confused wealth or technological superiority with wisdom, and endured the more obnoxious whites with a sort of bemused condescension. He barely managed to support his large family on his meagre teacher's salary, but there was a fundamental happiness to his home that announced itself in a myriad of small ways every time I dropped in. He himself

was Catholic, as are most Zaireans, and he looked forward to Christmas with a quiet joy. He would go to midnight mass at the large dilapidated cathedral and spend Christmas day with friends and family, visiting and exchanging small gifts. For him the ritual and the singing were a glorification of the birth of Christ, nothing more. He and most of his countrymen did not mistake the symbols for the essence.

## PERSPECTIVES

Lon Duncombe

Bukavu, a city of some 200,000, was largely devoid of the

Christmas trappings that we have come to expect in the west. One lonely fake Christmas tree huddled in the lobby of the European hotel and Santa had never managed to get his sleigh to this remote region of central Africa. Poverty stricken and unencumbered by the pervasive materialism of the west and its attendant trappings, the people felt no need to analyze Christmas for its real meaning: it was as obvious to them as it no doubt was to our own ancestors.

Somewhere in our climb to ascendancy we in the "developed" world have at times acquired a tendency to mistake the symbols of our 'holy days' for their essence. Do we really give thanks at Thanksgiving or is its primary purpose a family get-together with turkey and all the trimmings? Can the people of the third world, materially impoverished but spiritually enriched, perhaps give us their own gift of meaning and understanding in their celebration of the sacred and if so, do we still have the capacity to understand and accept it?

## More Letters to the Editor

# Time for goodbyes

### To the Editor:

Our year in the Haliburton Highlands has come to an end and we would like to thank all the people of the area for the warmth and hospitality they have shown us. From the day we arrived in this winter wonderland we have been made to feel welcome. The staff at J.D. Hodgson, the many new friends our children have made, my own workmates, as well as the many people we have met in going about our day to day activities have all shown genuine friendship and concern about our stay here.

In our year in Canada we have travelled extensively and seen the many sights of North America that have long been only dreams to us. We have had experiences that would make many fellow Australians envious, but always enjoyed returning to our home in Haliburton and the many new friends we have made here. If asked what were our fondest memories, we would have to say that it would be our life in

the Haliburton Highlands and the many wonderful people we have met. You can only look at the Grand Canyon, Niagara Falls or the Canadian Rockies for so long, but we could live this local lifestyle forever.

We have admired and enjoyed the change of seasons, the many lakes and the cottage lifestyle, but the main feature of the area we found was the people and their genuine nature. We enjoyed saying G'day and stopping for a chat, and felt that was the best way to discover the Canadian spirit.

Our stay has come to an end, but the memories of this year will stay with us for the rest of our lives and has enriched us in so many ways. We are indebted to everyone we have met and hope to return this way at some time in the future. In the meantime we would be pleased to return the hospitality shown to us, should anyone venture to Australia.

John & Tracey Smith and family  
Wagga Wagga, Australia



Pic of the Past

This isn't the only winter when we've had lots of snow. Keith Taylor of 12 Mile Lake shares with us this week this photo of his moth-

er, Elsie, in front of the home where Mr. Taylor still lives today.

# December 61st would be nice!

WHY IS IT that every year we get to this last week before Christmas and many of us are running around like a freshly be-headed turkey, not knowing what task to tackle first and, subsequently accomplishing nothing. Every year I vow I will become one of those people who shops all year-round, picking up those perfect little trinkets for their loved ones in a calm and orderly fashion. But then November hits and with it those doldrum days. Those days when you look out the window and say dully "Oh, rain again. I guess I'll stay home". Then suddenly it is December first and I realize I don't have anything done, nor any ideas and I've only got 24 short days to cram it all in. And this year is no different.

Well, a friend of mine had what I thought was an awfully good idea. She says we'd solve the whole problem if we moved December 1st to November 1st. Psychologically it would be very good because we would have four extra weeks to get into the Christmas spirit. We wouldn't have to dread the November blahs. Think of the way we could use that bonus time. We would have ourselves fooled that it is really December 1st and we would start our usual countdown frenzy only to find we still have five more weeks of December! And then we could just sit back and enjoy since the presents have been bought and wrapped, the baking is done,



ANNECDOTES

Anne Creelman

etc, etc. Sure there are some logistics to work out but we're all adaptable and I'm sure we could get used to December 55th being Christmas Day.

We, at our house, are busily finishing up those last minute gifts even as we speak. Siobhan is making paper crafts for EVERYONE. Max is drawing detailed wildlife pictures, suitable for framing (act surprised Dad!) Sophie is coveting the shortbread tin and I'm afraid Santa might be out of luck this year. I'm not doing too badly this year although I do have a mountain of sewing yet to finish. We have even managed to send our out-of-town presents to family in time for a change.

The kids are getting excited and it really is special to be a part of it with them. They tiptoe past me with suspicious looking packages saying "Don't peek Mom!" and they belt out Christmas carols with great gusto. While practising for the school Christmas concert we hear many different version of traditional songs. Who exactly is "Round John Virgin" and did you know that "the cattle are glowing" in "Away in a Manger"? I look forward to the concert almost as much as the turkey and trimmings.

I listen to the kids and their

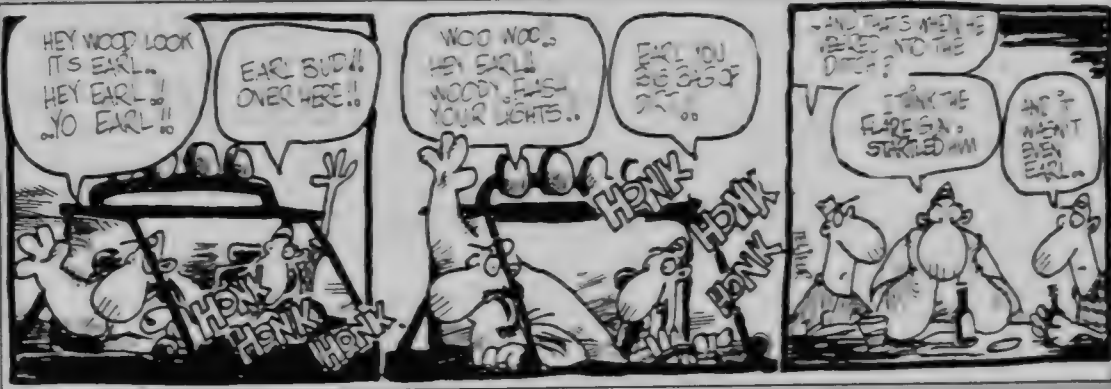
anticipation of the season. They look forward to the Advent calendar, the snow (enough's enough though!), ask when we are starting to read "Angel Square" and do I think Mrs. Claus will be sending jammies this year? They squeal when the first box of mandarin oranges come into the house, plan the menu for Hanukkah and wonder if Grandma and Grandpa should come for breakfast, lunch AND dinner on Christmas Day (maybe next year, guys). They are so excited and although I know they look forward to the presents, the things they talk about most have nothing to do with them. They like the whole feeling of the season and the togetherness. They love the things that are becoming tradition. They love the music and the lights around town.

So this year I'm trying to take my cue from them and not worry about the perfect gift or if I'll get everything done in time. I'll have my family around me and we're healthy and that is the best present of all. It sounds corny but after the last few Christmases, believe me, that is really all that matters.

And so, to everyone in Haliburton and all points in between, my wishes for you are simple. May you all have a happy and healthy and hug-filled Christmas season. It is what it is all about. And maybe we could all throw caution to the wind and be a little more like kids again. You never know what you may see in the sky!

## Boonieville

by Charlie Telford





# The view from older eyes

*For a generation who didn't expect to live this long, aging has its challenges*

by RUTH STILL  
Guest Columnist

*Pursuant to my recent topic, "The Lady with the Laugh," I shall attempt to discuss aging from three viewpoints: (1) the seniors themselves, (2) the children caregivers, (3) the institutional caregivers. I welcome input from the community, 754-2602.*

HAVING PASSED the proverbial three score and ten years myself, I am now a senior, on the slippery slope of the aged, coming to grips with its reality and inevitability. Granted, I shall generalize and argue from a woman's angle but as widows we predominate in the aging scene.

To appreciate the attachment - emotional, physical and financial, that we have for our homes, one must consider our background. Today, 'those over 70' grew up in the depression era in an entirely different world. It was chiefly rural, labour intensive, the man was still the meal-ticket, the ultimate authority, the public voice for the family.

Few women had post secondary education. Their role to make the family function, any dysfunction - their fault. If funds were scarce the receiving order was traditional: husband, children then mother.

The church was her club, her approved social life. By its precepts the family was raised - "Spare the rod and spoil the child" - a recipe for a parental jail term now.

The post war era was a wonderful liberating breath of change for women. Perhaps in the change of traditional roles we lost the closeness of mutual family need but we gained openness and frankness, enlighten-

ment and a community involvement.

We were a generation of savers, and home owners. Daily life improved with labour saving devices and better nutrition. Most of us figured we'd had enough exercise raising a family - time now to rest, relax and be entertained by that wonderful addition, TV - a mistake as it turned out. Facilities to exercise are there however, for us.

Now with advancing years our body fails us. Aside from dimming eyesight, blunted hearing, dulled sense of taste, loss of teeth, our joints - knees, hips and ankles - betray us and we fall without warning. Ice is our

ago we hadn't supply to nurse one child. Now, if size means anything, taking on triplets would be a cinch. Stomach has not only drooped but expanded outward and upward. A waistline is just a memory.

Our house/apartment has in this age, become our castle, the symbol that we are an individual in our own right, are independent and can manage our own affairs. That we still run a home where children, grandchildren and friends are welcome and can stay. We are still in a supportive role.

We live for these visits, signs that we are still a part of the living when no one needs us any-

dowdy.

The spring of our well-being is family. We take pride in our children, joy in our grandchildren and their interest in us. The life cycle continues and we value our role in this. There is a spontaneity about children now - a hug, a kiss, a holding of a hand or even an "I love you" quite foreign to our upbringing but such balm to our spirit.

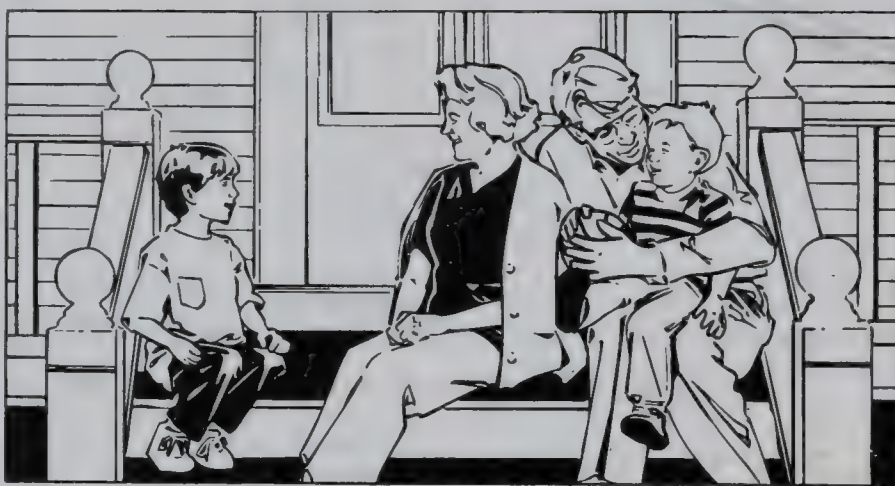
Such demonstrative behaviour and terms of endearment used to be discouraged. They were thought to encourage weakness, softness, sentimentality, hardly the preparation for a rough, hard world. Consequently, there is a constraint between us and our children, the result of lifetime habits. To be able to express open emotion is so comforting now.

We never expected to live this long, in such comfort with such good health. Society conspires, with support services and reduced fees for everything from bank services to a movie ticket, to keep us in a state of affluence undreamed of by our parents and not likely to be achieved by the next generation. Do we deserve it?

Surely ours is a unique economy which supports thousands of single seniors in private accommodation, 1000 square feet plus or minus, heated, lighted, furnished with every amenity and comfort. Not all society lives as well. Lucky us!

To be alone or lonely is largely our problem and there is help. Reach out, for by helping others, we help ourselves.

Never have we had such chances about where and now to spend our final years. With our affairs in order and our choices made while still able to, friends and relatives need only carry out the plan we chose.



*As we age, families become spring of wellbeing*

deadliest foe.

Upon working each morning we gingerly test to see if everything works or hurts. Sleep at night can evade us for hours, yet during the day we nod off on the slightest pretext. Energy and stamina disappear like water through a leaky pail. Our digestive tract (now in service for 70 plus years), has become noisy, uncertain and noisome.

Gravity is the winner, hands down, in this contest. The drop of facial lines and jawline is nothing compared with that of the bosom. Ironically, 40 years

more. We enjoy the chance to bake again - "Now I have something to do", knowing that a prolonged, physically demanding family scene is probably beyond us.

A word about gift giving now that time of year approaches. Can we eat it, wear it, watch it or listen to it? Give us nothing that requires dusting. We're fresh out of that skill and know now that we can't take it with us. Having somewhat lost touch with current trends we do appreciate the efforts of the young to prevent us becoming dated and

More Letters to  
the Editor

*Thanks to all  
who made  
gallery social  
so special*

To the Editor:

Could I use the Echo for a giant "Thank You"? Last Sunday (Dec. 10) a large group of Haliburtonians braved the icy elements to attend our "Singing and Shortbread" social at the Rails' End Gallery.

They ploughed through drifts and coaxed their cars up slippery hills for a couple of hours of old-fashioned Christmas celebration. Big attraction (even more than the food and the sing-along carolling) was the performance by fifteen small students from Victoria Street School. Led by their teacher, Mrs. Toos Reid, these youngsters sang an amazing variety of Yuletide songs, faultless in every word and note! (Thank you, thank you all.)

Our biggest "Thank You" goes to the moms and dads (and proud grandparents) who cheerfully bundled up the kiddies and brought them to the Rails' End Gallery.

We also thank the Katimavik group of young people for entering into our Christmas celebration. They arrived in Santa caps and friendly smiles, fresh from grooming our Nordic Trails.

You're a great community, Haliburton! You make our Winter Wonderland a really warm place to be!

With all best wishes for Christmas,

June Stewart,  
Social Convenor,  
Haliburton Highlands  
Guild of Fine Arts

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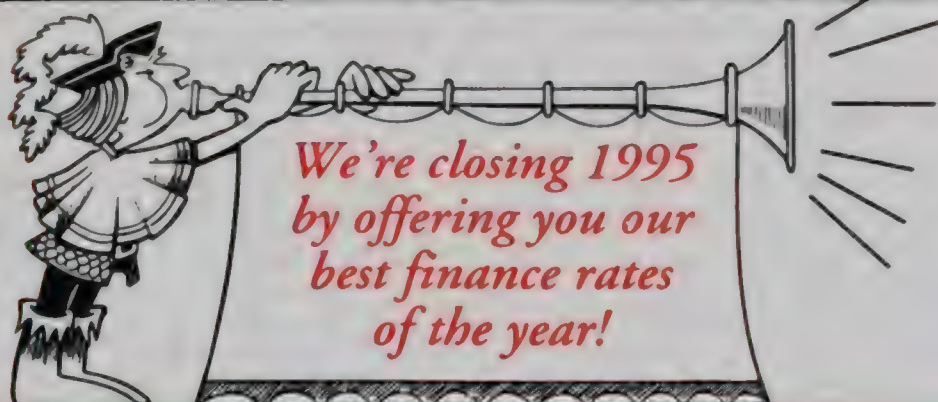
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## Employees urged to "get with the program"

by TAMMY MOORE  
Special to the Echo

Employee fitness programs have come a long way since the first one in 1976 by Canada Life Assurance Company. Employees are getting in shape and feeling more positive about themselves. Companies are saving money because of these programs and employees are finding their jobs more enjoyable and easier to handle.

Some people have not yet figured out the benefits of employee fitness programs. These programs help reduce absenteeism, are a positive stress releaser, decrease medical costs and increase injury prevention. All these benefits are a direct result of employees getting more physically fit.

One of the leading medical problems

affecting staff is depression. Up to 15 million Americans per year will develop a form of depression. A moderate form of depression may be alleviated within six weeks of a fitness program. Likewise, exercise is also beneficial for depressed workers. More severe cases may also require therapy. However, exercise creates a biochemical change in the body that therapy cannot provide.

When you are feeling healthy, you have a better outlook on life. You are able to handle stress better and do not have to deal with some of the more common illnesses. Because of this, employers are not having to spend money on employee turnovers and medical bills. Instead, they are able to put the money back into the company and create a better working environment.

One of the many reasons businesses

that do not have such programs identified the initial costs to set up the program a deterrent. There is financial support available from the Ontario government for establishing employee fitness programs. More than 100 companies have benefited from this package already.

In light of this information, promoting employee fitness programs gets the message across to the last few people who still do not know about the many benefits of being physically fit. The best form of promotion is word of mouth. If you know of someone who is not actively participating in some form of exercise yet, be sure to let them know what they are missing.

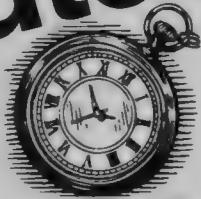
Tammy Moore is an HHSS graduate now studying Human Kinetics at the University of Ottawa.

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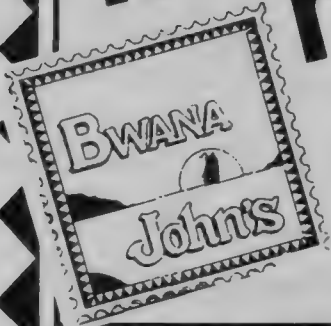
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# Ice hut operators fear trout fishing regulations will hurt business

by PETER DOWNS  
Staff Reporter

Local ice fishing operators fear new trout regulations will make it more difficult for them to compete against other areas with fewer controls over where and how anglers can catch their fish.

The lodge owners applaud the Ministry of Natural Resources' decision to quash an earlier proposal to ban anglers from using live bait to catch trout.

However, they believe a list of other regulatory changes, including lake closures and slot size limits, will slant the playing field toward business competitors in Simcoe and Temagami where anglers have fewer rules to follow.

But the Ministry says it is in a "Catch 22."

"If you don't do anything ... and you let the trout population in your area decline, then you won't be able to compete at all with the other areas," said the MNR's Minden office manager, Stan Flemming.

As of Jan. 1, it will no longer be permitted to fish for trout during the winter and early spring on dozens of lakes in Haliburton County.

On dozens of others, anglers will only be allowed to use one

line to fish for trout. Previously they could use two.

As well, they will be required to release all trout between 40 and 55 centimetres in length or 33 and 40 centimetres, depending on the lake.

Each angler may keep a maximum of two trout larger or smaller than the slot sizes, which are supposed to measure fish of reproductive size.

In Haliburton County alone, the regulations will affect fishing on nearly 90 lakes. In Bracebridge, Bancroft, Mazinaw and Pembroke a further 110 lakes will be affected.

The MNR believes the new regulations will allow the trout fishery to recover from the damaging effects of over-fishing by anglers, development and pollution from faulty septic systems.

But some lodge owners who rent out ice fishing huts to make the winter season more profitable say the MNR is protecting the trout at their expense.

"They seem to have a one-track mind. They don't seem to care about the economy of the area. They only seem to care about what their biologists tell them," said Gary Grosschadl, owner of The Clansman Motel on Boshkung Lake.

Next door to The Clansman, Don Archer's Matabanick



**WATCHING THEIR CATCH:** Fish hut operators fear new Ministry of Natural Resources lake trout regulations will prompt fishermen to try their luck where the rules aren't as restrictive.

Lodge opens through the winter only to capitalize on ice fishing.

He says he's already lost a couple bookings for the upcoming season because of the controversy that has surrounded the MNR's trout fishing regulations since they were first proposed a couple years ago by the NDP.

While he's "fairly happy" with the final plan the province decided on, he's worried the limitations could take a cut out of

his business.

"I'm sure the regulations could sometimes sway a group, whether they come or they don't come," he said.

Don Hodgins took over ownership of the Red Umbrella Inn on 12 Mile Lake in June and is getting ready for his first winter in business in the Highlands.

Like The Clansman, The Red Umbrella, with 10 ice huts, is one of the biggest players in the

county's ice fishing industry.

Hodgins admits he is new to the debate over trout regulations, but knows enough already to share some of the worries of his neighbouring lodge owners.

"One of my concerns is that we have a level playing field," he said. "... If we had a level playing field across Ontario, then Simcoe wouldn't have an advantage over us.

See MNR page 16

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Christmas!



# MNR says no restrictions, no fish left in Highlands lakes

FROM page 15

"But I think everyone realizes, if there are no fish in the lake, then you can't compete either."

Hodgins is hoping the area's many attractions will make up for any limitations placed on anglers.

"I like to think, and I hope, that Haliburton has enough attractions that it won't hurt us," he said.

Grosschadl maintains the MNR is "putting all the blame" for declining trout stocks in this area on anglers, when there are a number of other detrimental influences, including over-development, pollution and the draw down on area lake systems to feed the Trent-Severn Waterway.

"I think the regulations will encourage anglers to go elsewhere and, unfortunately, that is what the Ministry wants," he charged. "And that is reprehensible when it has such an economic impact on the area."

Flemming said the Ministry is not singling out any one area with its new regulations, but focusing on lakes where the trout fishery is in the worst state of decline.

"The fact is that you have to manage the lakes based on what is happening in that area," he said. "Some of the other areas have healthy trout stocks, such as Temagami which has an excellent stock of trout."

Grosschadl and others speculate size limits supposed to protect reproductive trout could end up killing more fish than they save.

"I feel the slot limit was a step backward," he said. "Instead of catching their two fish and going home, they'll be handling more fish and many of them won't survive when they are released."

"Many of the fishermen won't know how to catch and release properly and that's going to cause a lot of mortality," agreed Archer.

He and Grosschadl believe the MNR should have required anglers to use barbless hooks to make it easier and faster for them to release their catch.

Flemming said the MNR did consider the option, but "didn't find enough scientific evidence that barbless hooks would do the trick" to reduce the mortality rate.

He said the Ministry will use brochures and other promotional materials to try to teach anglers how to release their catch so they have the best chance of survival possible.

"I hope lodges and resorts will also help educate anglers on the proper methods to catch and release fish," he said.

Instead of introducing fishing regulations, the MNR should begin a "reasonable" stocking program at trout lakes experiencing the most pressure along Hwy. 35, believes Grosschadl.

He disagrees with the Ministry's stand that continual restocking is damaging to the species' gene pool.

But at least one ice hut operator isn't convinced the new regulations will hurt her business.

"I think our big concern was that anglers be able to use live bait, so we're pretty happy that that's out. I think we can still compete fairly well with the other areas," said Beverly Kinsman, who owns and operates The Kinsman Cottages on Boshkung Lake with her husband, Rick.

Some of the lodge operators claim the MNR deliberately froze them out of discussions earlier this fall when a number of public advisory committees were given the opportunity to have input on the proposed regulations before they were adopted.

Grosschadl says the local committee headed up by Flemming was kept "very hush hush" and did not include representation from any of the county's ice hut operators.

"The committee was stacked with people who would toe the MNR line," he charged. "I never knew who they were or when they met without doing a lot of digging."

Archer from the Matabanick also claimed the committee and its meetings were "kept secret."

"Definitely anybody that made any money from ice fishing was not invited," he said. "We were not informed at all that the MNR was holding these meetings."

But Flemming maintains the MNR sought extensive public input over the past two years as it formed its trout fishing policy and had representation of each interest group sitting on the local public advisory committee.

The committee, which he said included representatives from municipal government, lodges, bait shops and the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce, met twice this fall.

Ice hut operators credit Natural Resources Minister Chris Hodgson for making a key change to the regulations by permitting anglers to continue using live bait to catch trout.

"If they hadn't done that, we pretty well would have had to close up shop," said Archer.

## Redmen dominate Lakefield for a decisive 5-1 win

Haliburton high school's hockey Redmen gave up the first goal of Wednesday's game against Lakefield, but bounced back to completely dominate the action for a decisive 5-1 win.

Josh Burk was the deciding force for the Redmen, netting his second hat trick in the past three games on three goals in a row.

Down by one early in the second period, Haliburton's Jackie Morrison got things rolling with a goal at 12:22. Assists went to Dennis Woods and Andrew McKelvey.

Josh Burk cemented the game for the Redmen scoring three back-to-back goals against the Lakefield netminder.

Curtis Reynolds and Matt Burk were given assists on his first goal, while Jackie Morrison and Bill Dovell were credited with helpers on the second.

Burk's third goal of the game was a solo effort.

With only a couple minutes left to play, Ian Clements added to the Redmen tally on a pass from Mark Hughes.

### GOLDIE'S CURLING CORNER



GOLDIE FOSTER

The first half of the curling season is drawing to an end. Shopping and hustling around for Christmas is now top priority.

**Rule #10:** When the game is over and the ends are totalled and the winner is declared, it is a tradition that the winners offer to buy the losers their favourite beverage. It is also customary the losers offer to reciprocate for the second round.

**Have a very merry Christmas and a healthy, successful new year.**

See you next year!, Goldie

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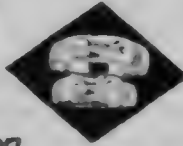
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# Highlands are on the 'net

by PETER DOWNS  
Staff Reporter

The following are brief reports of items discussed at last Monday's meeting of Dysart et al council.

The Highlands are now on the 'net.

Haliburton resident Len Creelman has set up a web site promoting the Highlands and its various attractions on the Internet.

All it takes for anyone from around the world to find out about vacationing in the Highlands or what other attractions the area has to offer are a couple simple clicks of the mouse.

Not only can they read about the region, but also they can see full-colour pictures.

## DYSART BRIEFS

Dysart council recently signed on as Creelman's first customer, giving him the resources to set up a "basic framework" presenting the region.

He is now trying to flesh out the frame by attracting other businesses and associations, including the Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce, to promote themselves in the Highlands web site.

Creelman has registered the Highlands' web site name as Haliburton.on.can.

### Wait and see

Councillors want to see whether tax arrears rise or fall

in neighbouring Stanhope, which recently introduced quarterly tax payments, before they make a decision on doing the same.

The municipality has received a number of requests from taxpayers to switch over to quarterly payments from a bi-annual payment schedule.

Deputy-reeve Bill Davis supported a new payment structure, maintaining it would be easier for people to make four smaller payments rather than two larger ones.

But reeve Murray Fearrey argued quarterly payments could lead to even higher tax arrears in the municipality.

"I don't know if everybody would be good enough bookkeepers to remember all the payments. I'd be afraid they wouldn't be able to keep up with it," he said.

As well, quarterly payments could be more costly for the municipality to administer because they would create more paperwork and more hours for employees, he said.

However, any increased costs would be offset by a possible rise in tax revenue collected, said Davis.

### Food bank help

Deputy-reeve Davis asked his fellow councillors to each match his donation of \$20 to the 4Cs food bank to help it through a particularly tough Christmas season.

Food bank organizers recently said they have seen a steep increase in demand because of the nearly 22 per cent cut the province has made to welfare benefits.

Davis said he had been trying to think of something council could do for the food bank, such as donating the proceeds from Sunday skating at the arena.

However, he didn't want to open the door to a similar arrangement to all other community groups.

Instead, he said he would make a personal donation of \$20 and asked his six colleagues to do the same.

### Logging concerns

Councillors called logging company Tembec onto the mat to air concerns they have over possible damage the operation's trucks may be inflicting on the municipality's roads.

Tembec is the company logging thousands of trees downed by last July's tornado in Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve.

Reeve Fearrey said he is worried the weight of the company's logging trucks will cause expensive damage to many of the municipality's roads surrounding Haliburton Forest.

"We want to be supportive of the logging industry because it's very important to us, but I'm concerned about the logging trains that are going out of there. Many of our roads were not built for that type of weight," he said.

Fearrey speculated the company's trucks are moving loads of 70 tonnes and higher.

But Tembec representative Gerald Close said the legal limit for logging trains is 62 tonnes.

He assured councillors Tembec would be responsible for the repairs if damage does occur. "Any time the company has had anything to do with roads, it brings them back to as good a quality as they were originally or better."

Ward 4 councillor Leon Jones worried the 30-year-old bridge between Little Kennisis Lake and Big Kennisis couldn't take loads of 50 to 60 for much longer.

He asked Close what impact lowering the load limit on the bridge to below 50 tonnes would have on Tembec's logging operation out of Haliburton Forest.

"We want to play ball with you but we can't afford to keep building new bridges," he said.

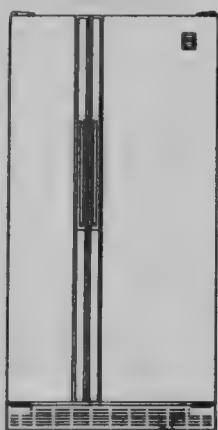
Close said a greatly reduced load limit on the bridge would force the company to move only half loads across the bridge, increasing travel time and transportation costs.

Fearrey told Close the municipality plans to get an engineer to examine the bridge. "He may say it's fine, but he may say it needs to be improved."

Whatever the engineer finds, Tembec will be willing to honour the municipality's demands, Close said.

"We'll need to work together. We're partners," he said.

# NO G.S.T.



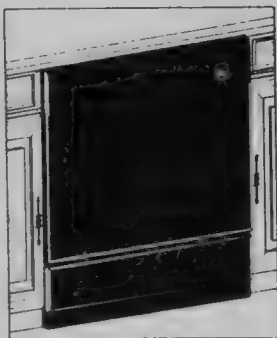
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MODEL AJ S202301  
20 cu ft REFRIGERATOR**  
• 3 Full-width cantilever wire shelves for extra storage capacity  
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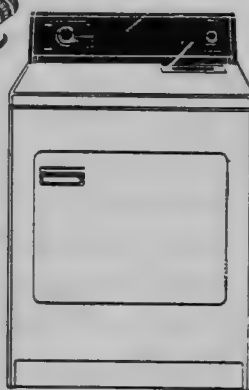
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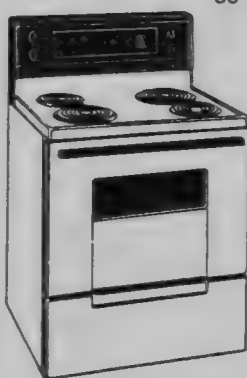
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MODEL AJT 170300  
16.5 cu ft  
• Frost Free  
REFRIGERATOR**  
2 full width wire shelves  
3 fixed full width door shelves  
1 dairy compartment  
1 1/2 shelf on door  
2 crispers  
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Reversible doors



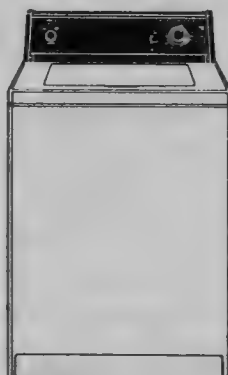
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\*not exactly as illustrated  
\*prices in effect while stock lasts

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# A DOER:

*It won't be hard for Hilda Clark to know what's going on in Wilberforce — she's on most of the organizing committees!*

by MARTHA PERKINS  
Editor

**A**FTER YEARS of experience in the Highlands, The Echo firmly believes in the saying that "if you want something done, you ask a busy person."

That's why we asked Hilda Clark to become our new Wilberforce correspondent after Flo Elliott retired last month.

Here's a list of some of Clark's endeavours (or at least the ones with formal designations): she's past president of the Wilberforce Heritage Guild and one of the founding organizers of the Outpost Museum; she's a member of the Loop Troupe; she sits on one of the Haliburton County Development Corporation's committees, as well as the Monmouth Recreation Committee; she's past chairman of the Country Good Times Parade; she's president of the Victoria/Haliburton superannuated teachers association; and she runs her own bed and breakfast, House in the Village.

With her hand in so many pots, we know she definitely knows what's going on in her community.

She was born at the Wilberforce Outpost Hospital, the first hospital of its kind in Ontario (which is why she later helped transform it into a museum.) Her parents were Walter and May (née Hughey) Clark, who owned the farm where Clark now lives. Her father also built the house which Clark has transformed into a bed and breakfast in the spirit of her grandmother Clark's boarding house at the same site. (In conversations with Clark, everything seems to have some historical tie with something — or someone — else.)

Farm life kept the six Clark children busy, but it also had its dangers and hardships. Her sister Edith died at age 8. She had gone out to the school's out-house on a cold winter's day,

wet herself and then couldn't get back in the school. She decided to walk home in the huge snow drifts and luckily, a neighbour saw her and brought her home. However, she got sick and died, perhaps from appendicitis.

Brother Bill died of gangrene poisoning at age 18 after his horse team got loose and he was run over by a wagon. Of the other siblings — Harry, Elaine and Gordon — only the two youngest remain, Gordon and Hilda.

Because her parents were 47 and 40 years old when Hilda was born, she grew up accustomed to older people. "They were both story tellers and being the youngest, you were expected not to have much to say," she laughs. "My mother was the one who told us who was related to whom in the family."

Not only does she know every twig and crooked branch on the family tree, she also knows the family tree of nearly every building in the area. She refers to homes by the names of their early owners and knows a little life history of each family.

School was in Wilberforce until Grade 10, when she and Fred Taylor became the first students from Wilberforce to be bused to high school in Haliburton. This was quite an improvement over having to board in either Lindsay or Peterborough if you wanted to continue past Grade 10. Their first driver was Fred Walsh. Instead of a bus, "it was like a huge old, brown-coloured limousine, with two in the front with him and the rest of us in seats (lining the edges) in the back." Four months later he bought what was might have been an old Red Cross field vehicle.

For as long as she can remember, Clark knew she wanted to become a teacher. "What other role models were there?" So after graduation she went to Normal School in Peterborough to train.

Being young and naive, she



**IF YOU WANT SOMETHING DONE...** Despite her many other projects, Hilda Clark has agreed to be our Wilberforce correspondent.

thought she had a calling to teach in a one-room school so a year later, she was assigned to a small school near Fenelon Falls. "I had my resignation written after three weeks," she smiles. "I was young, in a strange place in the country, with all these highfalutin notions for a school with no copiers, no film projectors, no fancy overheads."

To her credit, she lasted a year and then moved to Bancroft, where the school put her youth and one-room school experience to work by giving her the tail end of Grade 3, 4 and 5 classes.

She stayed for six years before accepting a post in Oakville. The town worked very hard to retain a sense of community so despite its size today, it was really like moving to a larger version of Wilberforce.

Starting out as a Grade 7 and 8 phys. ed. and health teacher, Clark soon earned qualifications to become a phys. ed. consultant, travelling to the 90 schools in the area to set up her programs for daily health and activity. At the same time, she earned her degree from McMaster University in Hamilton.

Many people wondered how a woman who went to a school without a gym ended up being a phys. ed. teacher. But Clark says despite the lack of facilities, the children kept incredibly busy, swimming in the lakes and rivers, walking to school, chasing the cows and hunting for lost sheep. She was always very busy and, it now appears, a born organizer.

In a re-organization of a school board that was constantly growing in size, Clark went back into the gym to teach. In 1988, after 28 years in Oakville, she retired. It was a long and satisfying career. "You just saw it as an honourable position. You were teaching the kids all these things they needed to know."

Just as she had always known she wanted to be a teacher, Clark always knew she would return home. She'd always been back for visits, enjoying the best of both worlds, and although she had dozens of friends in Oakville, Wilberforce's call was too strong to ignore. "I like being where I know people and there are lots of things to do."

Once back home, she wasted no time in renewing old friendships and ties. Some of her jobs were unexpectedly thrown in her lap, such as the day she walked into Agnew's Store and Cathy Agnew asked "what are we going to do with the old Outpost?" A museum was born.

"I think we've got a lot of super people who are willing to take part in things and contribute," she says of the village's strength. For such a small town, Wilberforce has an abundance of facilities "because people took the initiative to get them. People aren't afraid to get out and raise a dollar."

Clark will now be chronicling these events every week in The Echo. It's a community she loves and we hope she has the same enthusiasm for telling the rest of our readers about the wonderful people and events in Wilberforce.

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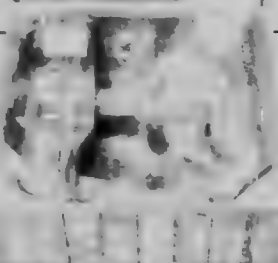
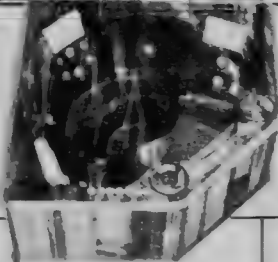
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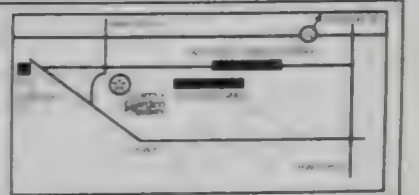
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It was painstaking work, but Katie Carey and Jenny Moynes hand-painted decorations were well worth it



Here's a good use for those puzzles with a few pieces missing: Stacey Schell, right, Sarah Pergolas and Courtney Hartin make wreaths

❄️ ❄️ ❄️

## Grade 6 students at JDHES get in the spirit of Christmas

❄️ ❄️ ❄️



When Principal McKay Brydon was giving a demonstration in his office, he made starting a fire look very easy, above left. But when the students tried it in the middle of a snow storm, they had to use matches as kindling. None of them were tempted to stay outside to roast marshmallows, either.

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*During the holiday season, we will be open*

Saturday December 23 (reg. hours)

Sunday December 24 1 - 2pm

Monday December 25 Closed

Tuesday December 26 1 - 2pm

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday (reg. hours)

Saturday December 30 (reg. hours)

Sunday December 31 1 - 2pm

Monday January 1 Closed

*Wishing you a healthy holiday season!*



## What would HHSS students suggest to the Board of Education to cut expenses?

Compiled by Co-op student Deborah Nash



"They should regulate the heating throughout the school to save money"

Sarah Schwartzentruber



"I think there should be fewer photocopies so the school can save money on paper. Also, turn off the lights when classrooms aren't in use"

Sarah McMahon



"Students who damage school property should be punished more severely, so that the school doesn't have to spend money on new equipment. Also get rid of the late bus east and use a van instead since there aren't very many students"

Tim Hughes



"I think there should be more focus on the courses instead of all the extracurriculars activities so that all the students have enough text books. I also agree with cutting back on the cost of the late bus east"

Todd Hoare

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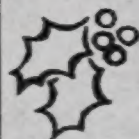
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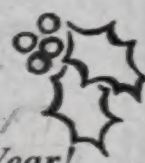
\* Except Photofinishing, Lottery Tickets and Laundry



We would like to  
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wish our customers a very

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Andy & Sandy Glecoff, Family & Staff



HALIBURTON - 457-2715



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Since 1922

'Take A Step Back In Time'

No bells, no whistles, no silly hats!!!  
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with all the trimmings  
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**December 22 & 23**  
**JAMES YOUNGER**  
**BAND**

**New Years Eve Party**  
**December 31st, 1995**

- Hot & Cold Buffet
- All Night Long
- Champagne at Midnight
- Party Favours
- Live Band, Featuring  
"Midnight Angel"

**\$15.00 per person**

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IN THE HIGHLANDS



HALIBURTON'S HOTTEST - ROCKIN'  
**NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY!**

**THE MOOSE** and **ROCK '95**

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BY GOOD VIBRATION  
BARRIE'S HOTTEST CLUB DJ

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**SUPER FINGER  
FOOD BUFFET**  
MOOSE WINGS, PIZZA,  
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GARLIC BREAD, VEGETABLE PLATTER

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\$12.50 PER PERSON  
AVAILABLE AT THE  
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TONS OF  
**DOOR PRIZES**  
THROUGHOUT THE EVENING -  
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| December 25 (Christmas Day)  | 11am - 9pm |
| December 26 (Boxing Day)     | 11am - 9pm |
| December 30 (New Year's Eve) | 11am - 9pm |
| January 1 (New Year's Day)   | 11am - 9pm |

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Call: 489-4482

## New Year's Eve Dinner

Served from 6 - 10 pm

Cream of Asparagus Soup

Chicken Satay w/ Peanut Sauce or Salmon Mousse

Avocado & Mandarin Orange Salad

Beef Wellington with Mushroom Demi-Glace

Served w/ Potato Croquettes & Honey Glazed Carrots

or

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Topped w/ Cumberland Sauce and served with Honey Glazed Carrots

Baked Alaska • Coffee or Tea

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## Lochaven Inn

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Party Hats and Favours with a Snack  
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Accepting bookings now for New Year's Eve  
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Look for our special events this winter including  
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A Donation to the 4c's would be appreciated.

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## New Years Eve

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For groups from eight to eighty...  
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- Chicken Mirabel  
morsels of chicken with white wine,  
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- Shrimp & Banana Curry \$10.95
- Gratinated Seafood  
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### EXTENDED CHRISTMAS HOURS

Wednesday December 27 - Saturday January 30

LUNCH 11:30 - 2:00

DINNER 5:00 - 8:00

Closed December 24, 25, 26

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## Promising Santa Pristine Season

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Bring the office, your family  
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and enjoy our traditional  
Christmas Luncheon buffet!  
Thursday December 21st  
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From 11:30am - 2pm.  
This festive buffet is just  
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The Heatherwood is  
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Saturday December 30th  
featuring Prime Rib  
along with the daily table  
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from \$14.95.

The Gallery On The WinterGreen  
Open 7:30am - 8:00pm  
Thursday Dec. 21st - Saturday Dec. 30th  
(closed Christmas Day)

The staff and management of PineStone Resort would  
like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday this  
year and all the best for 1996. We are welcoming in  
our 20th year in the Highlands, and look forward to  
sharing our celebrations with everyone!  
Best Wishes!

### Christmas Day in The Heatherwood

#### HoHoHo!

Santa's job is done and he's  
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PineStone! Featuring Leg of  
Lamb, Honey Glazed Ham,  
Quiche and Pastry Table  
just \$14.95 per person.  
Kids 12 and under 1/2 price!  
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Give Mom the gift of Christmas.  
Bring her to the PineStone for dinner  
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Our traditional buffet features Stuffed  
Roast Turkey, Roast Beef, Cheesecakes  
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Kids 12 & under 1/2 price.

#### The Club at the PineStone

Open 5pm - 1am  
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Try our new Cheese Stuffed Jalapenos  
Peppers or enjoy some Christmas Cheer!

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Nordic Trail passes available now!  
Make Tracks to PineStone today!



# County to develop mapping protocol in anticipation of 9-1-1

by MARTHA PERKINS  
Editor

The county will develop a protocol for mapping all properties in the Highlands as a beginning step towards a more unified emergency service.

Whether the county goes ahead with 9-1-1 or not, mapping is seen as an important and necessary asset for the ambulance, fire and police services.

At Wednesday's county council meeting, Jeanne Anthon of the 9-1-1 committee said they've discovered many rural communities have difficulties with the 9-1-1 service. A committee report from Les Shepherd says "cell phones and multi-party phone lines are quite common in Haliburton County residences and both are problematic."

As well, in rural areas which have

embarked on 9-1-1, "it appears that unforeseen costs and difficulties continue to arise and even Bell Canada is just learning the requirements for 9-1-1 service to rural areas."

Perhaps 9-1-1 isn't the only answer, Anthon said. Other options could be a zenith number or one number for all fire services in the county. (The main advantage with 9-1-1 is that it has become so familiar to everyone, especially cottagers who are accustomed to the service in the city and may not know which fire department to phone.)

No matter what option is chosen, a numbering and mapping system is needed and Anthon is confident there will be volunteer support from lake associations and other residences. However, the protocol will ensure that the numbering systems are compatible with one another.

Without volunteers, the mapping cost for the entire county is estimated to be \$300,000.

Shepherd's report says signage costs will vary dramatically depending on the level of signing which will be provided by the municipality and those which will be the responsibility of the property owners. Estimated costs are \$100 each for road signs, \$300 each for major intersections and \$20 each for household signs.

Using these numbers, Shepherd says it would cost \$132 per kilometre to sign County Road 19 and \$405 per kilometre to sign County Road 18.

JEP funding is not available for the project but some areas have successfully attained infrastructure funding for mapping.



**SENIORS HELP OUT:** Dale Dovell of the Glamorgan Fire Department and Junior Firefighter of the Year Mitchell Clarkson accept a donation of \$300 to the fire department from Elsie Brown, on behalf of the Gooderham Senior Citizens' Club.

## School of Fine Arts invited to Minden

by PETER DOWNS  
Staff Reporter

*The following are brief reports of items discussed at Thursday's meeting of Anson, Hindon and Minden council.*

Council hopes to encourage Sir Sandford Fleming College to locate some of the courses offered through the Haliburton School of Fine Arts at Archie Stouffer Elementary School this summer.

The school offers the bulk of its programs at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School.

However, the school board is hoping to begin renovations at the high school this summer, which would cut down the amount of space available for the arts school

### MINDEN BRIEFS

to offer its courses.

The school board has already told the college it could relocate its programs to ASES for the summer.

But Sir Sandford believes splitting the courses up between two communities would be too difficult to administer.

Instead, it has said it will try to offer them all in Haliburton at various locations, but may be forced to cancel some of them, depending on the amount of space left available at the high school.

Reeve Jeanne Anthon said it would be a shame for the school, which provides an important boost to the economy, to limit its course list when there is a large, well-equipped building like ASES sitting mainly empty during July and August.

"It's an excellent facility and not utilized

nearly as much as it could be in the summer," she said.

### Food drive help

Council has given the Christian Sunday School Mission permission to use two rooms at the community centre for free from Dec. 19-21 to co-ordinate the distribution of its Christmas baskets.

There is a very strong demand for assistance this Christmas, coming just two months after the province cut welfare benefits by nearly 22 per cent.

Councillor Daryl Moore said he was told by the food bank organizers more than 145 families had registered for Christmas baskets by last Wednesday.

That's a nearly 50 per cent increase over the number of people who turned to the CSSM for help last Christmas.

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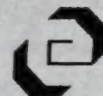
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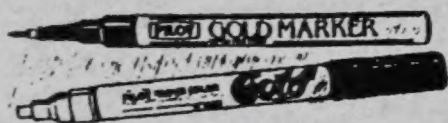
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